Calendar No. 739

82D CONGRESS, 1st Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 782

AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES TO TRANSFER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CERTAIN PROPERTY IN ST. LOUIS, MO.

SEPTEMBER 18 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 13), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MCCLELLAN, from the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 466]

The Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, to whom was referred the bill (S. 466) to authorize and direct the Administrator of General Services to transfer to the Department of the Army certain property in St. Louis, Mo., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

This bill, submitted by the Department of Defense as part of its legislative program for 1951, would authorize and direct the Administrator of General Services to transfer to the Department of the Army, without reimbursement, the property formerly known as the War Assets Administration Sales Building located at 8900 South Broadway, in St. Louis, Mo.

On May 1, 1950, the General Services Administration, as successor to the War Assets Administration, declared the property proposed to be transferred under the present bill excess to its needs. Thereafter, the Department of Defense advised the General Services Administration of its need for the property, and an agreement was thereupon entered into with the General Services Administration (by letter dated October 10, 1950, and accepted by the Secretary of the Army on behalf of the Department of Defense by letter dated December 22, 1950) whereby the entire facility was transferred to the Department of the Army, for a period commencing September 1, 1950, and ending June 30, 1952. Under the terms and conditions of this agreement, and pursuant to the provisions of section 202 (e) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, the transfer was to be made at the fair value of the property as determined by the

General Services Administration, provided, however, that if legislation authorizing the transfer of the property to the Department of the Army was introduced in Congress no later than June 30, 1951, and enacted into law prior to June 30, 1952, such transfer would be made in accordance with said legislation.

In a letter addressed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense to the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, dated January 11, 1951, a draft of legislation to conform to the provisos set forth above was submitted for approval of the Congress. The bill was introduced by Senator Russell on January 15, 1951, and referred to this committee.

On May 1, 1951, the Department of Defense requested the chairman of this committee to hold the proposed legislation in abeyance, pending a study by the Department of its space problems in St. Louis, Mo. At that time, the Department was investigating the possibility of converting a structure in that city—the Mart Building—into an office building. When the investigation revealed that the cost of such conversion would be prohibitively high. and conversion would have disrupted the current use of the building as an Army and Air Force medical depot, the Department of Defense, in a letter to the chairman, dated September 7, 1951, requested this committee to give early consideration to the pending bill.

The General Services Administration and the Bureau of the Budget have expressed their support for S. 466 and the committee believes that its enactment will be in the public interest.

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